Increase in production of coarse grains

†2279. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) per acre percentage of increase in production of coarse grains like maize and millet (Jwar and Bazra) registered during the last fifty years;

(b) the reasons for such shortage; and

(c) the action being taken to enhance per acre production of these significant crops for livelihood of farmers of arid and semi-arid areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Percentage of increase in per acre production (productivity) of Maize, Jowar and Bajra registered during the last fifty years *i.e.,* during the years 1956-57 to 2005-06 is given in the table below:

Crop	Productivity (Kg./ Hecrate) 1956-57	2005-06*	% Increase
Maize	819	1953	138.5
Jowar	451	908 799	101.3
Bajra	255		213.3

*4th Advance estimates

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to increase productivity and production of coarse grains under specific crops based systems, including arid and semi-arid areas, Integrated Coarse Cereals Development Programme (ICDP-Coarse Cereals) under the scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) is under implementation from October, 2000 in the country as Centrally sponsored scheme. Under this scheme, assistance is provided for inputs and training of farmers/extension workers as well as supply of critical inputs like seeds, sprayers and water saving devices like sprinklers and drip systems. To increase the production and productivity of maize, "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize"

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ISOPOPM) is under implementation since 01-04-2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided for Production of breeder seed, foundation seed and certified seed, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed, and Minikits, infrastructure development and integrated Pest Management. Besides, front line demonstrations on improved production technologies in oilseeds and pulses are being conducted through Indian Council of Agricultural Research as a transfer of technology effort among the farmers.

National Crop Forecasting Centres

2280. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment have set up the National Crop Forecasting Centre;

(b) if so, the main purpose and function of the centre; and

(c) the extent to which it has been proved beneficial to farming community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The scheme of National Crop Forecasting Centre (NCFC) was approved with the objective of providing an effective unified institutional framework for entire crop forecasting system in the country involving data flow from diverse channels for getting more accurate crop production estimates. The NCFC started functioning with effect from 3rd December, 1998.

The NCFC is mainly involved in coordinating the activities under the scheme "Forecasting of Agricultural output using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land based observations (FASAL). Further, NCFC also coordinates the activities under the project" Development of Extended Range Forecast System (ERFS) for Climate Risk Management in Agriculture" and holds meetings of the multi-disciplinary Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG) every week to review the weather and crop situation, among others. The CWWG provides an effective institutional mechanism facilitating crucial inputs for tracking crop prospects and that of early warning.